(b) if so, the extent of under-utilisation of funds during 1996 and 1997 and the amount that has lapsed as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for under-utilisation of the funds;

(d) the implementation of projects suffered as a consequence thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGLAM): (a) to (e) Power Finance (PFC) is a financial institution providing loans to the power sector, in particular to State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and State Generating Corporations (SGCs). External credits from World Bank and the Asian Development Bank through the Government of India are also on-lent in the same manner. PFC is not an executing agency and has to depend upon the SEBs/SGCs for utilisation of the credits. The Budget Estimates (BE), Revised Estimates (RE) and Actual utilisation of external credits through Budget for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 (provisional) are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	BE	RE	Actual
1996-97	550	550	480
1997-98	550	400	341.77

During 1996-97 and 1997-98 there was under utilisation of Budget allocations in rupees terms on account of delays in procurement and subsequent submission of Bills, proof of payments to suppliers/ contractors by beneficiary SEBs to PFC for disbursement. The progress of these schemes is being regularly monitored and reviewed.

Demand and Supply of Power in North-East Region

3155. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between demand and supply of power in each of the States of North-East Region as on 1.6.1998; and

(b) how does the Central Government contemplate bridging this gap?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The State wise power supply position in each of the States of North-Eastern region as on 1-6-1998 (for the month of May 1998) is given below:

Power Supply Position
(All figures in MU net)

May, 1998

Name of the State	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	% Shortage
Arunachal Pradesh	12.6	10.0	2.6	20.6
Assam	255.9	233.7	22.2	8.7
Manipur	42.5	38.5	4.0	9.4
Meghalaya	34.0	36.0	−2.0	−5.9
Mizoram	17.8	13.6	4.2	23.6
Nagaland	17.0	13.6	3.4	20.0
Tripura	42.2	41.6	0.6	1.4
N.E.R.(T)	422.0	387.0	35.0	8.3

Peak demand vs. demand met
(All figures in MU net)

Ke Name of the State	Peak Demand	Demand met	Shortage	% Shortage
		May, 1998		
Arunachal Pradesh	43	42	1	2.3
Assam	520	528	−8	−1.5
Manipur	93	89	4	4.3
Meghalaya	82	88	−6	−7.7
Mizoram	55	49	6	10.9
Nagaland	40	38	2	5.0
Tripura	101	100	1	1.0
N.E.R.(T)	907	889	18	2.0

(b) Various measures taken to improve the availability of power in North-Eastern States include—(i) Coordinated and optimum utilisation of existing generating capacity, (ii) Promotion of bilateral exchange between surplus states and dificit states of the region, (iii) Allocation of 100 MW power to Assam from the unallocated output of the NTPC stations located in the neighbouring Eastern region. Three units of 21 MW each have been commissioned recently at Agartala Gas Power Station of NEEPCO which helped in reducing the gap between demand and supply.

Besides above, the various executing agencies are taking necessary steps for expeditious completion of ongoing generation and transmission/distribution project of State and Central sectors.

Clearance procedure for power projects

3156. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the assurances given by Government to expedite and simplify clearance procedures for Power Projects, long delays and complicated conditions continue; and

(b) whether Government are aware of these problems and how and when does it plan to resolve them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) For seeking Techno-economic clearance (TEC) from Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for setting up their power projects, the project authorities must tie up statutory and non-statutory clearances such as fuel linkage, water availability, environmental clearance etc. The Government has initiated the following measures for expediting and simplifying clearance procedures for power projects:—

(i) Minimised the number of major clearances.

(ii) Issued a notification on empowering the states to clear generation projects selected through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) whose capital cost is less than Rs. 1000 crores, schemes for R&M of existing power stations costing less than Rs. 500 crores and all other schemes whose capital cost is less than Rs. 100 crores.

(iii) Issued a notification on delegating the environmental clearance to the State for all co-generation and captive power plants upto 250 MW, coal based power plants upto 500 MW using fludized bed technology subject to sensitive areas restrictions, coal based power plants upto